

And the winner is...

*...to much singing of hymns and beating of wings
the deserved winner of the first ever*

Can of Worms Award

is:

Mr Harry Swan

(of Thomas Swan and Co.)

Mr Swan is no stranger to opening messy cans of worms. As PR spokesperson for **Monsanto** he failed to convince the British public that they wanted GM foods and



Nowadays he is staking the future of his family firm on becoming the **UK's major producer of carbon nanotubes**. These are the asbestos-like fibres

famously refused to debate the safety of Monsanto's products at the Oxford Union because *"If we were to lose a debate on GM it could be very damaging"*. They did lose and it was damaging. Later, as a PR flack for **Regester Larkin**, he helped big oil and biotech companies attack environmental and human rights groups.



that NASA researchers found could be **'extremely toxic'**. With neither regulations, safety tests or a clear liability regime in place we can already hear those worms squirming out of the can.. Long thin slimy ones, short fat fuzzy ones.. Ooey gooey, ooey gooey worms...

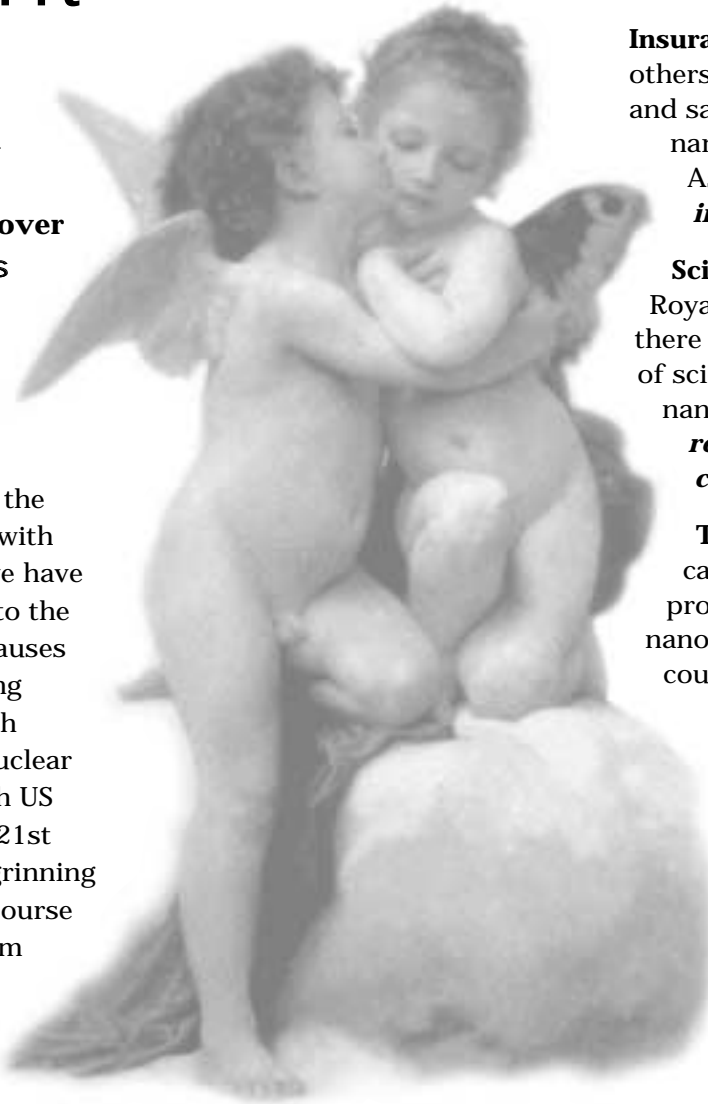
***Congratulations
Harry!***



Dear Conference Participant

There's no need to be afraid (its christmas time!) - we come with a seasonal message of great importance. We are here to hand over the first ever 2004 "Can of Worms Award" to a representative of the nanotechnology industry. Think of it as a celestial sign of things to come.

Our angelic hosts have been watching the market for some time and consulting with angel investors. From the firmanent we have noticed of late many fools rushing into the great nanotechnology gamble and it causes us much concern. Those we see rushing into nanotech include: the great foolish armies of the world, who so abused nuclear and chemical technologies; the foolish US president who obediently signed the 21st century nanotechnology act (like the grinning corporate monkey that he is), and of course the transnational companies fresh from making foolish things such as weapons (BAE Systems), chemicals (ICI) and GM Crops (Syngenta).



Nanotech is a can of worms...

It's not just us in the heavenly high getting our halos in a twist about small things. Even putting aside royal pronouncements on the matter, nano seems to be becoming a no-no for many in more earthly realms:

Insurance Industry - Swiss Re and others have warned that the health and safety problems of nanoparticles are similar to Asbestos. ***Expect expensive insurance premiums***

Scientific Community - The Royal Society has warned that there is a regulatory gap and a lack of scientific knowledge on nanotoxicity. ***Expect complicated regulations and scientific controversy.***

Trade Unions - The TUC has called for urgent action to protect workers from nanomaterials. Self assembly could replace labour. ***Expect unhappy workers.***

Environmental Groups - Greenpeace, ETC Group and European Greens have called for a moratorium on nanoparticle development and warned of the environmental dangers of nanobiotech. ***Expect nanopollution problems***

Human Rights Advocates - Disability rights groups have protested against nanotechnologies that would 'fix' the disabled rather than accept them into society. Privacy advocates have warned about nano-surveillance and the coming age of little brother. ***Expect public protest***

Lawyers - Thousands of nanopatents are being granted every year with very broad and unfair claims. ***Expect tricky legal battles***

See overleaf for the
2004 winner of the
Can of Worms Award

We wish you a Merry Christmas & a Happy (nano-free) New Year!

***Love from
AANT***

(Angels Against NanoTech)

<http://angelsagainstanotech.blogspot.com>

Only fools rush in...

...where angels fear to tread